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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1722**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takehiro KATA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 09/431,154

Examiner: J. Mackey

Filed: November 1, 1999

Docket No.: 104639

For: VULCANIZING MOLD FOR PNEUMATIC TIRES

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 23, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are pending.

I. Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Great Britain Patent No. 1,248,891 to Herbert et al. (hereinafter "Herbert"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,208,044 to Miyata et al. (hereinafter "Miyata"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,806,288 to Materick, U.S. Patent No. 3,990,823 to Le Moullac, (Le Moullac I), U.S. Patent No. 4,289,463 to Le Moullac (Le Moullac II), U.S. Patent No. 6,066,283 to Nara et al., and U.S. Patent No. 3,553,789 to Allitt. The rejection is respectfully traversed.